

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 23, 2014
9 a.m., MHS Auditorium
Helena, Montana

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Crystal Wong Shors, Steve Lozar, Bob Brown, Shirley Groff, Jim Murry, Jim Court, Kent Kleinkopf, Ed Smith, Tom Nygard, Jim Utterback, Janene Caywood, Ed Jasmin, George Dennison and Cliff Edwards.

Staff present: MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Administrative Assistant, Renee Podell; MHS Development Officer, Susan Near; MHS Public Relations Manager, Tom Cook; MHS Museum Collections Manager, Amanda Streeter Trum; MHS Museum Program Manager, Jennifer Bottomly O'looney; MHS State Historic Preservation Program Manager, Mark Baumler; MHS State Historic Preservation Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Peterson; MHS State Archeologist, Stan Wilmoth; MHS Publications Manager, Molly Holz; MHS Senior Editor, Christy Eckerle; Centralized Services Finance Manager, Jennifer Thompson; MHS Centralized Services Administrator, Denise King; MHS Centralized Services Accounting Tech, Lori Ereth; MHS Security Manager, Jerry McGee; MHS Outreach & Interpretation Manager, Kirby Lambert; MHS Historical Specialist, Martha Kohl; MHS Research Center Manager, Molly Kruckenberg; MHS Archivist /Oral Historian, Anneliese Warhank; MHS Photo Archivist, Natalie Waterman; and MHS Museum Store Manager, Rod Coslet

Guests present: Governor's Budget Office; Nancy Hall, Lee Rostad, Bob, Genevieve and Tim Morgan

CALL TO ORDER

President Crystal Wong Shors called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Jim Court moved approval of the October 23, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Nygard and carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Crystal Wong Shors

President Shors reported that Janene Caywood and Jim Court will join Shirley Groff on the Heritage Keepers Award Committee.

President Shors reported that she, Bob Brown and Bruce Whittenberg made a visit to Governor Bullock's office recently and met with the Governor's Chief of Staff, Tim Burton. They discussed the readiness of the MHS Board members and staff in preparation for the next Legislature. Discussion also included the Heritage Center project and the Governor's continued

support. The Governor challenged the MHS to bring the total of private donations and pledges to \$10 million dollars before the next session convenes. The Donor Relations Task Force Committee has been formed to meet this challenge. The Committee will consist of Trustees George Dennison, Ed Jasmin, Cliff Edwards and Jim Utterback; Ex Officio: Bruce Whittenberg and Crystal Shors. Susan Near will staff the committee.

President Shors also reported that a Government Relations Committee has been formed and named the following committee members: Bob Brown, Ed Jasmin, Jim Murry and Kent Kleinkopf; Ex Officio: Steve Lozar, Bruce Whittenberg and Crystal Shors. President Shors said other Board members may offer help on these committees. She announced that the Governor has asked the MHS Trustees to make some noise and create some momentum. Work continues at the Society and she asked Trustees to let the staff know that their work is supported and appreciated. President Shors asked the Trustees to contribute what they can and to be engaged. The Board members are committed to the Heritage Center and to the ongoing mission of the Historical Society.

President Shors presented Chinese New Year tokens to the Board members and explained that it is the Chinese Year of the Horse. She related her gifts to the work being proposed by the Board members in raising awareness and funds for the MHS Heritage Center. She explained that the characteristics of the horse mean that energy is high and hard work is rewarded. The Year of the Horse calls for decisive action, not procrastination. The horse is a hero in China because many important battles were won due to the power and strength of the horse. She explained that it is a custom in the new year to present food gifts. She presented a mandarin tangerine for luck and wealth in the new year. Sweets were presented for safety and good fortune. The red envelope contained lucky money and she explained that red is a lucky color intended to ward off evil spirits. The fortune cookie is just for fun.

Executive Committee Report -Tom Nygard

Tom stated the meeting consisted mainly of Denise King's report on the financial situation of the MHS due to the audit that is taking place at this time.

There was discussion on the visit made by Bruce Whittenberg and Molly Krukenberg to the Crow tribe noting that Bruce would give the report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Bruce Whittenberg

Bruce said it is the beginning of a really big two years for the MHS and a time to raise the profile of the Society across the state. He presented the "History Worth Celebrating" PSA that was donated by the MTN stations which won two best ad awards.

He presented the aggressive schedule of events planned for celebrating the MHS 150th birthday and highlighted all the upcoming activities.

Bruce asked the MHS Program Managers to introduce new employees. Mark Baumler introduced MHS SHPO Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Peterson; Denise King introduced MHS Centralized Services Accounting Tech, Lori Ereth; and MHS Research Center Program Manager, Molly Kruckenberg introduced Research Center MHS Archivist/Oral Historian, Anneleiese Warhank; and MHS Photo Archivist, Natalie Waterman.

Bruce gave an update on the progress of the Archives shelving project noting that the project is ahead of schedule. The Archives will reopen by April 15th.

The Tom Mulvaney post card collection has been purchased by the Society. A public program was recently presented and Tom Mulvaney spoke on the process of placing this collection into its proper home.

Bruce discussed the recent trip he and Molly Kruckenberg took to visit with the Crow Cultural Committee members. They presented the Bud Lake photograph collection for review and asked for their support of the MHS purchase of this collection. He thanked Steve Lozar for his help in setting up a meeting. The committee passed a motion of support and will write a letter of support for the acquisition of the photograph collection by the MHS.

Bruce reminded the Board members to read through the quarterly reports to see the work being done by the MHS programs.

Marketing and Development – Susan Near

Susan reported on her efforts to build a fund raising culture. She noted that grant monies have exceeded last year and that members are being generous.

Membership – Rebecca Baumann

Rebecca announced that membership is up and stands at 2,135 members. A business member brochure was presented (made a permanent part of the record).

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Tom Cook

Tom Cook presented handouts of recent stories generated in the press (handouts (3) made a permanent part of the record).

PROGRAM MANAGERS REPORTS

MUSEUM PROGRAM – Jennifer Bottomly-O’Looney

March 19th will be the grand re-opening of the Mackay Gallery of C. M. Russell with an all day celebration and a reception in honor of Charles M. Russell during the evening. Jennifer explained that the gallery will be closed and all of the art work taken out so that the ceiling can be repaired, repainted and the walls refreshed. State of the art drawers will be installed which will triple exhibit space. She noted that the drawers will be secured and archived. During the Russell reception the new C. M. Russell book will be promoted.

Jennifer discussed SB #59, passed in the 2011 Legislature, creating a woman's mural that will be placed in the Capitol building, on the east and west wall of the third floor. Private funds are paying for the mural and the MHS will be the fiscal agent. This is not a fund raising effort by the Society but the Society supports it. Denise King stated that The History Foundation is doing fund raising for the project. There were 55 applicants submitting applications to be chosen as the artist to complete this project. A Montana artist was recently chosen to paint the mural with a November 14th unveiling date.

Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art Loan Request – E-Mail Ratification - Motion

Jennifer explained that this request was received as a short-notice request from the Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, to borrow a piece from the MHS collection for an exhibit they opened on January 8, 2014 (handout made a permanent part of the record). The request is for a January 1, 2014 – May 1, 2014 loan. An email vote was taken (email votes made a permanent part of the record) with approval being granted for this loan. The following is a formal action by the Board: **Ed Jasmin moved to ratify the e-mail vote for the loan request by the Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art. Jim Utterback seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Governor's Budget Office Loan Request – Motion

A request to borrow four pieces from the Capitol Art Loan Collection was received (handout made a permanent part of the record). This loan requires annual approval (January 24, 2014 – January 24, 2015) as stated in the MHS Board Policy.

Ed Jasmin moved approval of the loan request by the Governor's budget office to borrow nine pieces of art from the Capitol Art Loan Collection. Jim Murry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

National Museum of Wildlife Art & Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of the Art of the American West Loan Request - Motion

A request was received from the NMWA and CMRCSAAW to borrow the following: *In the Mountains*, C. M. Russell, 1905, watercolor; *Here I Am Bill*, illustrated letter, with envelope, by C. M. Russell to William H. "Bill" Rance, April 7, 1912, watercolor, and pen and ink; *Antelope Hunt*, by C. M. Russell, 1897, watercolor; and *Quick Shooting Saves Our Lives*, by C.M. Russell, 1905, watercolor and gouache (handout made a permanent part of the record).

Jim Murry moved approval of the loan request from the National Museum of Wildlife Art and Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West. Ed Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

RESEARCH CENTER- Motions - Molly Kruckenberg

Molly discussed the archive shelving project noting that many improvements have been made to the space including environmental controls in the stacks. The actual installation of the shelving system was begun right after the walls were painted. The moving of the collection back into the space is still on schedule for mid-March. The Treacy Foundation gave \$50,000 to help with

costs of packaging and moving of the collection off site. Molly stated that this donation was very much appreciated.

Molly reported that since the Tom Mulvaney Post Card Collection was purchased and the Research Center is ready to start on the acquisition of the Bud Lake and Randy Brewer Collection of Historic Crow photographs (handout presented and made a permanent part of the record). The handout will help with fundraising for this collection. Susan Near is helping put together a packet of information which will include the handout presented and some post cards from the collection and Molly will be including the letter of support from the Crow Cultural Committee. The first payment on this collection has been made in the amount of \$25,000.

January, 2014 Deaccession List - Motion

Jim Utterback moved approval of the January, 2014 Deaccession List (list made a permanent part of the record). **Kent Kleinkopf seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler

Mark highlighted the Anzick Archeological Collection. He acknowledged that this is an important collection. Mark introduced Stan Wilmoth and Amanda Trum. Stan announced that he recently had the privilege of receiving the Anzick portion back into the museum which is on loan from the Anzick family. He stated that the Anzick collection is the oldest Clovis assemblage in the country and it is the only complete assemblage dating 13,000 years old. It was discovered outside Wilsall High School in 1968. In 1988, the collection was brought to the MHS. Amanda presented epoxy casts (reproductions) of the tools found in the collection which could be handled by the Board members and she also showed original pieces that were encased and could not be held. Mark announced that a news conference will be held in February regarding the Anzick Collection.

Janene Caywood asked how researchers wanting to use the collection are accommodated by the MHS. Amanda stated that because all of the pieces are on loan, permission must be granted by the lenders for anyone requesting to study the collection. Once permission is given, the objects are pulled from the exhibit and the objects are brought into the lab. Staff always stays with the object and the researcher.

OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION –Kirby Lambert

Kirby presented the new 2014 History Conference post card (handout made a permanent part of the record). He introduced Martha Kohl and she explained that it is the 100th anniversary of woman's suffrage in the State of Montana. She stated that women's history really hasn't gotten its due. This is a good opportunity to focus on celebrating women's history matters. The MHS website will contain blogs of many types of topics and issues that celebrates the history of Montana women. All of the MHS programs are working together to celebrate the history. Martha noted that communities all across the State of Montana are encouraged to participate in this event. A list has been compiled outlining suggestions on how communities can celebrate.

Once 2014, comes to a close, the stories compiled from throughout the State of Montana will be gathered together and published in book form as a lasting legacy.

PUBLICATIONS – Motion - Molly Holz

Molly reported on the progress of the C. M. Russell book, *Montana's Charlie Russell*. She asked Bruce Whittenberg to introduce the guests that have arrived for this portion of the meeting. Bruce introduced a past Board member, Lee Rostad. He explained that Lee had a long time interest in seeing the publication of a book on Russell's work. Bruce also introduced Genevieve, Tim and Bob Morgan noting that Bob and Lee lead the charge to see this publication become a reality. Thanks to contacts made by Board member Jim Court, funding was raised for this project. Bruce commented that this may very well be the most complete publication made by the MHS of Russell's work. The book is authored by Kirby Lambert and Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney and it will be completed and available for sale by September 1, 2014. The active promotion of the book will begin on March 19th at the birthday celebration event for Charlie Russell. Bruce said the Board would like to make a motion to dedicate the book to Bob Morgan.

Tom Nygard moved to dedicate the C. M. Russell book titled, *Montana's Charlie Russell*, to Bob Morgan. Bob Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Molly discussed a schedule of events for the publicity of the Russell book starting now and continuing through 2015.

CENTRAL SERVICES – Denise King

Denise presented the financial schedule for FY 2014 through December 31, 2013 (handout made a permanent part of the record). She reported that the biennial internal audit continues. Denise also noted that the museum store revenues are up by 17% and gave a handout of the top 20 books of 2013 (handout made a permanent part of the record).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Recognition of Past Board Members - Motion

Discussion was held on the importance of recognizing the service of past Board members. Jim Murry asked that appreciation be shown for the Board members service.

Jim Murry moved that the Director of MHS be charged with preparing a resolution of thanks to honor the service of past Board members. Kent Kleinkopf seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Discussion included further ideas for presenting this resolution. It was suggested that the Governor sign the resolution and that a plaque be designed to hold the resolution. Board members would like a card included for their signatures.

Legislative Discussion - Motion

Jim Court explained that the last legislative filing date is March 10th. He asked Bruce Whittenberg to compose a letter for all Legislators inviting them to upcoming events and to follow-up once again after the primary and then again after the general election.

Jim Court moved that the MHS Director write letters to Legislators informing them of upcoming MHS events and inviting them to attend. Jim Murry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEXT BOARD MEETING – April 24, 2014 9:00 a.m. - Executive Committee – 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

1:25 p.m.